

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ultraviolet acoustooptic device, comprising:  
a radio-frequency signal input part;  
5 a transducer unit for converting a radio-frequency signal into a mechanical vibration; and  
an acoustooptic medium whose optical characteristic varies according to the mechanical vibration,  
wherein light entering the acoustooptic medium is ultraviolet light  
10 having a wavelength of 380 nm or shorter, and the acoustooptic medium is formed of an oxide single crystal containing at least boron as a component of its unit cell, a  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  crystal, or a  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  crystal doped with  $\text{MgO}$ .
2. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein the  
15 oxide single crystal contains at least alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal as a component of its unit cell.
3. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein the oxide single crystal containing at least boron as a component of its unit cell  
20 is at least one of single crystals selected from a group including  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ ,  $\text{CsLiB}_6\text{O}_{10}$ ,  $\text{LaCa}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$ ,  $\text{LiB}_3\text{O}_5$ ,  $\alpha\text{-BaB}_2\text{O}_4$ , and  $\beta\text{-BaB}_2\text{O}_4$ .
4. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 3, wherein the oxide single crystal is a  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$  or  $\text{CsLiB}_6\text{O}_{10}$  single crystal.  
25
5. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein the oxide single crystal further contains a rare earth element as a component of its unit cell.
- 30 6. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 5, wherein the oxide single crystal containing a rare earth element as a component of its unit cell is at least one single crystal selected from a group including  $(\text{GdY})_1\text{Ca}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$  and  $\text{YCa}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$ .
- 35 7. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein a doping amount of  $\text{MgO}$  is 7 mol.% or less.

8. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 7, wherein the doping amount is 0.5 mol.% to 7 mol.%.
9. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the acoustooptic medium further is covered with a high thermal conductive sheet.
10. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 9, wherein the high thermal conductive sheet is a graphite sheet.
11. The ultraviolet acoustooptic device according to claim 1, wherein the light entering the acoustooptic medium is ultraviolet light having a wavelength in a range of 160 nm to 380 nm.
12. An optical imaging apparatus, comprising:  
a light source for emitting light with a wavelength of 380 nm or shorter;  
an ultraviolet acoustooptic device for diffracting light emitted from the light source;  
a driving circuit; and  
an image plane on which light diffracted by the ultraviolet acoustooptic device forms an image,  
wherein the ultraviolet acoustooptic device includes an acoustooptic medium formed of an oxide single crystal containing at least boron as a component of its unit cell, a  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  crystal, or a  $\text{LiNbO}_3$  crystal doped with  $\text{MgO}$ .
13. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the oxide single crystal contains at least alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal as a component of its unit cell.
14. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the oxide single crystal containing at least boron as a component of its unit cell is at least one of single crystals selected from a group including  $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ ,  $(\text{GdY})_1\text{Ca}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$ ,  $\text{CsLiB}_6\text{O}_{10}$ ,  $\text{YCa}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$ ,  $\text{LaCa}_4\text{O}(\text{BO}_3)_3$ ,  $\text{LiB}_3\text{O}_5$ ,  $\alpha\text{-BaB}_2\text{O}_4$ , and  $\beta\text{-BaB}_2\text{O}_4$ .

15. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a movable mirror for forming an image on the image plane with the light diffracted by the ultraviolet acoustooptic device, with the movable mirror being disposed between the ultraviolet acoustooptic device and the image plane.

16. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, wherein at least a part of the acoustooptic medium further is covered with a high thermal conductive sheet.

17. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the high thermal conductive sheet is a graphite sheet.

18. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a beam stopper for shielding light transmitted through the ultraviolet acoustooptic device, with the beam stopper being disposed on a side where the light transmitted through the ultraviolet acoustooptic device travels.

19. The optical imaging apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the image plane is a photoreceptor.